

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



March 1994

Volume 7, Number 3

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

B.C. Literacy Cost-Shared Funding The External Review Committee: How it Works

In response to inquiries from the literacy field, the following information on the B.C. External Review Committee was prepared for this newsletter by Mary Waddington, Coordinator of Literacy and ABE Programs, Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour; and Patty Bossort, B.C. Cost-Shared Projects Consultant.

Annual grants for adult literacy projects have been funded through a cost-shared agreement between the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology -- now the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour (MSTL) -- since 1987. Funding of \$1.2 million, for a total of 35 projects, was announced for B.C. for 1993/1994.

A British Columbia committee called the External Review Committee plays an important role in determining the outcome of a group's application for funds. The policies and guidelines for directing the operation of this Committee are reviewed annually by Committee members. The most recent changes to the guidelines were made last spring to increase the Committee's efficiency and fairness.

The Committee, considered an advisory committee to the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, is composed of individuals involved in

the delivery of literacy programs in B.C. The Committee meets after all the applications have been reviewed by internal committees at the National Literacy Secretariat and Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour. This year, the external review will be held in April in Richmond.

This year, the External Committee consists of nine people, two of whom are learners. It also includes two non-voting government members -- one each from the NLS and the MSTL -- who serve as resource people. The role of the resource people on the Committee is to brief the other members on government policies and priorities, inform them of the recommendations of the governments' internal advisory committee, and provide additional information about the proposals.

According to the Committee guidelines for 1994/95, the members are selected "for their broad perspective and expertise in literacy, not to represent specific interest groups." (See the list of 1994/95 Committee members on next page.)

The Committee takes an active role in reviewing the budgets submitted for each cost-shared project. However, since local communities are

continued on page 2

"Committee" from page 1

assumed to have the best knowledge about costs in their areas, the review is general rather than specific. If budgets need to be reduced, the Literacy Cost-Shared Projects Consultant contacts applicants to negotiate whether the project can proceed and if so, where cuts could occur. The reasons for rejecting a project or reducing a budget are shared with the applicants on request, or as appropriate.

To avoid any perception of conflict of interest, Committee members must leave the room during discussion and voting about proposals in which they have a direct involvement. Voting members of the Committee may not receive direct employment as a result of the funding of a project.

The work of the Committee is kept in strict confidence.

Beginning this year, part of the Committee will rotate yearly. The maximum size of the Committee is 10 members. Each member serves a maximum of three years, and one third of the members will be changed each year.

The members of the 1994/95 External Review Committee are:

- ❖ **Erna Barwich**
learner
- ❖ **Jim Bray**
Adult Basic Education
Association of B.C.

- ❖ **Wayne LeBlanc**
First Nations community
educator
- ❖ **Grace Mirehouse**
Association of First Nations
Institutes
- ❖ **David Reagan**
Deans/Directors of
Developmental Education
- ❖ **Ken Reich**
learner
- ❖ **Jan Sawyer**
ABE Fundamental Articulation
Working Committee
- ❖ **Joyce Upex**
School Districts' Continuing
Education Directors
- ❖ **Lee Weinstein**
Literacy B.C.

The resource people on the Committee are:

- ❖ **Patty Bossort**
Cost-Shared Projects Consultant
- ❖ **Yvette Souque**
B.C. Projects Officer
National Literacy Secretariat
- ❖ **Mary Waddington**
Coordinator, Literacy and ABE
Programs
Ministry of Skills, Training and
Labour

For further information on the Committee, contact:

Patty Bossort
Cost-Shared Projects Consultant
4280 Windsor Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5V 4P4
Phone: 876-3780
Fax: 876-6780

or:

Mary Waddington
Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Ministry of Skills, Training and
Labour
2nd Floor - 838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 □

ABEABC Call for Board Nominees

The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. (ABEABC) is calling for nominees to fill eight of its Board of Directors positions. The elections will be held at the association's annual general meeting and conference next month.

The eight positions are:

Executive:

- ❖ **President-Elect:** two-year term
- ❖ **Treasurer:** two-year term
- ❖ **Secretary:** two-year term

Regional Representatives:

- ❖ **Fraser Valley:** two-year term
- ❖ **Kootenays:** one-year term (to fill a resigned position)
- ❖ **Lower Mainland:** two-year term
- ❖ **Vancouver Island:** two-year term

Committees:

- ❖ *Groundwork Chair*

continued on page 3

"Nominees" from page 2

The ABEABC is "a professional association which fosters and promotes excellence in adult basic education instruction and programming."

The conference will be held at the Ocean Pointe Resort in Victoria, April 20 - 23, 1994.

For further information on the nominations, contact:

Iris Rich-McQuay
ABEABC Regional Representative
for Cariboo/Okanagan
c/o Access Department /Regional
Programs
University College of the Cariboo
Box 3010
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 5N3
Phone: 376-7518
Home phone: 372-0246
Home fax: 372-0246 ☐

Proposals Wanted for Aboriginal Literacy

The K'noowenchoot Centre of Okanagan University College invites proposals for the second Aboriginal Literacy Training Event, to be held at the University of British Columbia May 24 - 28, 1994.

Proposals are invited on a range of aboriginal literacy areas, such as: whole language literacy instruction; aboriginal language literacy; northern literacy; numeracy; and

effective literacy practices for Native adults.

All practitioners in the field of aboriginal literacy are invited to submit proposals.

The event is a 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared project shared by Okanagan University College, the Prince George Native Friendship Centre, and the University of British Columbia First Nations House of Learning.

The deadline for presenters to submit proposals is March 30, 1994.

For further information, contact:

K'noowenchoot Centre
Aboriginal Adult Education
Resources
Box 610
Salmon Arm, B.C.
V1E 4N7
Phone: 1-800-665-9972
Fax: 832-2771 ☐

Workplace Literacy Topic at PACE Breakfast

"Literacy Across the Workplace" will be the topic at a professional development breakfast sponsored by the Pacific Association for Continuing Education (PACE) in Vancouver this month.

The guest speaker at the breakfast is Gary Pharness, of the City of Vancouver Hastings

Institute Workplace Language Program. His talk will include "program and client organization characteristics; impacts of participation in programs; characteristics of the program in specific context; and the role of employment equity and diversity in the programs."

Pharness, who has been involved with literacy and business since 1965, "consults with organizations to help them develop partnerships between union and management for the

continued on page 4

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 West Hastings
Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in
B.C.

684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Fax

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



"Breakfast" from page 3

purpose of building language programs that address the needs of all the workers."

PACE "fosters and maintains high standards of adult, continuing and community education in B.C. by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences in adult education and fostering professional development."

The meeting is part of the current PACE breakfast series, "a monthly no-fee drop-in series about innovative developments in adult education."

The breakfast takes place at:

Isadora's Cooperative
Restaurant
1540 Old Bridge Street
Granville Island
Vancouver
March 23
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

For further information,
contact:

Pacific Association of Continuing
Education
P.O. Box 2613
349 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1Z1
Phone: 251-6979 ☐

PACE
PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Literacy instructors - your students' artwork is wanted!

Learners are invited to submit their designs for the cover of this year's *Learners Talking to Learners* publication.

Learners Talking to Learners is the B.C. literacy cost-shared project which enables literacy learner groups to plan and host events specific to their region. This year, it is sponsored by Selkirk College and a Provincial Learner Events Advisory Committee.

This is the seventh year learner events have been held in B.C.

Joyce Cameron, Project Coordinator, says, "the objective of the project is to provide learners with the chance to organize and host events centered on their interests and what they have to say."

A total of 39 events have been approved this year.

Some examples of events planned are "speakouts," field trips, career fairs, student support groups,

visits to literacy centres, cable TV programs on literacy hosted by learners, and learner-published writing.

The project also includes the publication of a summary of the events, called *Learners Talking to Learners*. This year, literacy practitioners are asked to invite their students to submit designs for the cover of the booklet.

Designs should:

- ❖ be in black and white
- ❖ measure either 8 1/2 x 11" (front cover design only) or 11" x 17" (front and back cover design)
- ❖ include the words, "Learners Talking to Learners 1994"

The deadline for submissions is June 1, 1994. The student's name and a day and evening phone number must be included. Please mail artwork to the address below.

For more information,
contact:

Joyce Cameron, Project
Coordinator
Learners Talking to Learners
c/o 707 - 12th Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 4J7
Phone: 439-7714
(Vancouver)

RESOURCES

The LEAP Game Kit and Manual for Facilitators

This "life skills teaching kit" is a set of games designed for low-literacy adult learners. The kit was developed by "Healthiest Babies Possible," a pregnancy outreach program of the Northern Family Health Society (NFHS) in Prince George. Located in the Native Friendship Centre, the program provides emotional support, and nutrition and lifestyle counselling for "at-risk" pregnant women.

The kit includes three separate sets of games which emphasize everyday math, reading and decision-making skills. They are "Metrics and Money," "That's Life," and "Leap into Life."

"Metrics and Money" is designed to allow the learner "to apply practical mathematics and reasoning to daily situations," by developing a visual understanding of the value of money, the decimal system and metrics. In, "That's Life," a card game, "the drudgery of real life money matters becomes fun as players take on imaginary personalities and tackle new challenges in each game." This game involves the learner in paying bills, saving money and making decisions about managing

monthly expenses. "Leap into Life" is a series of "treasure hunts" with components such as "using the bank," "furnishing a home," "preparing for a baby," and "finding accommodation."

The LEAP Game Kit and Manual for Facilitators is a 1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared project shared by the NFHS, the College of New Caledonia (Prince George), and other agencies involved in the development, production and pre-testing of the kit.

Marlene Thio-Watts, Executive Director, NFHS, says a limited number of the kits will be distributed to organizations "recognized for their commitment to adult literacy education." In addition, hands-on workshops to introduce the kit to selected organizations are planned. Dates are to be announced.

For more information, contact:

Marlene Thio-Watts, Executive Director
Northern Family Health Society
144 George Street
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 1P9
Phone: 561-2689
Fax: 563-0924 □

Free Your Words: A Quick and Easy Guide to Clear Legal Writing

This publication is one of a number of resources developed by the Plain Language Institute of British Columbia, which officially closed in March of 1993.

The guide is in a free-standing format designed to be set up on a desk. Each page defines a particular writing problem and gives examples of how to correct it.

Some of the problems dealt with are: the passive voice, digressions, redundant modifiers, bulk builders, legalese, and excessive references.

While created with legal writing in mind, the guide is also useful for general writing.

An excerpt: *Bulk Builders.*

Description: Words or phrases that add no meaning to a sentence. They just add bulk and fill space. Example: "She was simply too exhausted."

Test: Ask whether the sentence means the same thing with the word left out. Correction: Take it out. Every word should do some work. "She was exhausted."

The guide is available free of charge from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. □

CLOW Calls for Participants and Facilitator

The Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women (CLOW) is seeking a working group of 15 women from across Canada to develop a book of instructional material about women's issues for use at the literacy level.

The call for participants is open to Literacy, Adult Basic Education, or English as a Second Language instructors who work with a group of learners or in a one-to-one tutoring situation; and who have some experience in developing learning materials.

The two year project is funded by the National Literacy Secretariat.

CLOW is a national, feminist organization concerned with learning opportunities for women and the empowerment of women.

Participants in the project will develop guidelines on the definition of a feminist perspective on curriculum writing; and create a curriculum which will include a variety of whole language techniques.

The participants will develop and test pieces of curriculum with learners in their own programs and attend two

working group meetings. The first meeting takes place in Banff, June 5 - 7, 1994.

The material to be developed will be "about women's issues and ... accommodate women's ways of learning."

CLOW especially invites women of colour, immigrant women, and First Nations women to apply.

CLOW is also looking for a woman to facilitate two meetings of the 15-member working group. [As well as the Banff meeting, this includes a second still to be scheduled.] Remuneration is \$2,000 per meeting plus travel expenses, accommodation and meals. Interested women should send a resume outlining their facilitation skills and experience, and the names and phone numbers of three references.

The deadline for both participants and facilitator is March 23, 1994.

For further information, contact:

Aisla Thompson
Canadian Congress for Learning
Opportunities for Women
47 Main Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4E 2V6
Phone: (416) 699-1909
Fax: (416) 699-2145 ☐

BCLA Provincial Summit

Librarians and literacy workers from around the province will meet in Vancouver this summer at the B.C. Library Association (BCLA) "Libraries and Literacy Summit '94," to develop a long-term strategic plan for the literacy services provided by B.C. libraries.

The event is timed to coincide with the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association (CLA) in Vancouver June 14 - 18, 1994. The Libraries and Literacy Summit '94 will take place June 13 - 14 in Vancouver.

The Summit is a 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared project of the BCLA Literacy Interest Group. The project is managed by a seven-member Summit Advisory Board. The Chair is Thomas Quigley, librarian, Vancouver Public Library. The Summit Coordinator is Don Holmsten.

Delegates from libraries in each region of the province will attend, as well as representatives from literacy groups that work closely with the library community.

For further information, contact:

Don Holmsten, Summit Coordinator
B.C. Library Association
110 - 6545 Bonsor Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1H3
Phone: 430-9633 Fax: 430-8595 ☐